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DHA
25/4/67

TAB "A"

COMMENTS ON STUDY "THE VULNERABILITY OF
THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS EUROPEAN SATELLITES TO POLITICAL WARFARE

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General Comments

1. This report presents the general aspects of the over-all problem of waging political warfare against the USSR and its European Satellites very effectively. The background information on the internal stability of the USSR, the succession problem, the evolution and dynamics of Soviet society, and the nationalities problem, among other subjects, is considered very good. The study reflects the work of a competent staff of researchers.

2. Considering the study from the point of view of current air target intelligence, it was disappointing to note that the broad subject of the relationship of political warfare to air offensive was almost entirely neglected. It is felt that many factors relating to the effects of the strategic air offensive, such as the political effect of attacking certain urban areas and target categories, the advisability of employing various psychological warfare tactics in conjunction with the strategic air offensive, and the reactions of the leaders and population at large to the attacks, were within the scope of the study and very much within the competence of the projects staff.

Answers to the Specific Questions

1. To what extent have you and your staff used the studies?

A. This particular study has been consulted frequently in connection with studies related to the vulnerability of Soviet society. It has been used to corroborate other material and to provide some basic information not elsewhere available in such useable form.

2. What specific parts of this study have directly influenced your operations, programs, or planning?

A. The report has been of value in evaluating the stability of Soviet society. The treatment of the nationalities problem in the USSR, in particular, is considered an objective and useful discussion of this difficult subject. The discussion of cohesive forces, instabilities, and tensions in the European satellites is also regarded

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as very good. Both of these portions of the study provide new and different approaches to very complex problems. Some of the ideas presented in them have been used in a number of our staff studies and working papers.

3. Would you have recommended expenditure of your agencies funds to assist in the production of the study or any part of it?

A. In respect to the portions of the study mentioned in response to Question 2 above, the answer is in the affirmative, if sufficient funds were available and the answers were not forthcoming from similar Air Force projects already under way.

4. In your opinion, is the conduct of such research by academic institutions a worthwhile object by government financing? If your answer is in the affirmative, what criteria should be applied to the use of government funds?

A. The results of the staff as reflected in this study indicate clearly that such research by some academic institutions can be worthwhile. Obviously, it would vary, in particular, with the capabilities of a specific institution and the degree to which the research requirement is made clear to its staff.

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In respect to the criteria which should be applied to using government funds for such research, the following conditions are suggested:

a. That the project not depend to any great degree on current classified material and that significant results could still be expected though limited mainly to open sources.

b. That the project require the specialized knowledge and/or capabilities of experts not available in sufficient numbers inside government agencies.

c. That the project be sufficiently broad and of long-range interest, and thus not likely to become outdated in a few years.

d. That the project satisfy an important intelligence and/or planning requirement which Government agencies cannot adequately meet due to lack of time or proper personnel.

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